

Serial No. 09/893,599
Docket No. YOR920010318US1
(YOR.294)

9

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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 21, 2006, and Advisory Action mailed June 5, 2006, and further to the Request for Continued Examination filed on June 21, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows prior to issuing a first Office Action after RCE.

Claims 7, 8, 24-33, 36, and 48-54 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Claims 6-8, 23-33, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Egger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,571; hereinafter "Egger") in view of Anupam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,796; hereinafter "Anupam").

While Applicant believes that all of the claims are patentable over the cited references, to expedite prosecution, claims 8 and 25 are amended to define more clearly the features of the invention, in accordance with the Examiner's kind suggestions in the Advisory Action mailed June 5, 2006.

New claims 48-54 also are added to define more clearly and particularly the features of the claimed invention. Withdrawn claims 37-47 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of a divisional application directed to these claims.

The claimed combinations have not been previously considered by the Examiner, and thus, raise a new issue to avoid a "first-action" final Office Action after the filing of the RCE. No new matter is added.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no

Serial No. 09/893,599
Docket No. YOR920010318US1
(YOR.294)

10

amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 7, 8, 24-33, 36, and 48-54, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

Serial No. 09/893,599
Docket No. YOR920010318US1
(YOR.294)

11

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 28, 2006



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 the enclosed Preliminary Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 to Examiner Mohammad A. Siddiqi, Art Unit 2154 on July 28, 2006.


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